

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05  
OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05 AGRE-00 HEW-06 L-03 H-02  
MED-03 IOE-00 /079 W

-----221316Z 038667 /53

P R 221251Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9670

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1137

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJ: PARAGUAYAN NARCOTICS LAW

REF: STATE 57902

1. PARAGUAYAN LAW FORBIDS POSSESSION OF "DANGEROUS DRUGS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING THEM" BUT DOES NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MARIJUANA AND OTHER DRUGS IN ESTABLISHING PENALTIES, WHICH ARE DETERMINED BY THE NATURE OF THE CRIMINAL ACT RATHER THAN THE TYPE OF DRUG INVOLVED (SEE BELOW).

2. ONLY ONE SECTION, ARTICLE 15 OF THE PARAGUAYAN DRUG LAW (NUMBER 357, DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 1972), SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. IT PRESCRIBES IMPRISONMENT FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS FOR ANYONE IN POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. HOWEVER, PERSONS WHO HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION ONLY "A MINIMAL QUANTITY OF SUCH DRUGS FOR EXCLUSIVELY PERSONAL USE" MAY BE SUBJECTED TO A DIFFERENT SECTION OF LAW WHICH PRESCRIBES REHABILITATION AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AT A CARE CENTER RATHER THAN IMPRISONMENT.

3. OTHER SECTIONS OF LAW WHICH CONCERN PRODUCTION, SALE OF DRUGS, UNCLASSIFIED

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PROMOTION OF DRUG USE, AND TRAFFICKING, PRESCRIBE IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM SIX MONTHS TO 12 YEARS DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF CRIME.

4. ENFORCEMENT IS NOT STRICT. THE SMALL NATIONAL NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT (NND) IS THE ONLY POLICE AGENCY IN PARAGUAY SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT. IN THE

ABSENCE OF WIDESPREAD ABUSE OF HARD DRUGS, THE NND CONCENTRATES PRIMARILY ON SUPPRESSION OF PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND USE OF MARIJUANA AND AMPHETAMINES. STATISTICS ARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE, BUT THE NND HAS HAD SOME SUCCESSES IN RECENT YEARS IN MARIJUANA CROP DESTRUCTION AND ARREST OF TRAFFICKERS. THOSE ARRESTED FOR CRIMES INVOLVING MARIJUANA USUALLY ARE IMPRISONED BRIEFLY IF AT ALL, OR, IF CONSUMERS, ARE GIVEN COURT-ORDERED REHABILITATION. DUE TO SMALLNESS OF THE NND, ONLY A FAIRLY SMALL PROPORTION OF TRAFFICKERS AND PRODUCERS MAY IN FACT BE AFFECTED BY THE NND'S EFFORTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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